

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE
PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH, AND
CENTRAL PROVINCES.

Received up to 16th October, 1870.

POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

THE *Matla-i-Núr* of the 26th September remarks that the times at which the train arrives at Lahore and Umritsur are very inconvenient to passengers. It is added that swindlers are found in numbers at both stations, and make off with passengers' luggage. The attention of the police is invited to the grievance.

It is also stated that swindlers gather in crowds at Saunders' Tank. As this lies at the Grand Trunk Road, not far from the cutcherry, and is frequented by district officers, the writer thinks that such a gathering could not exist without collusion.

The *Riyáz-i-Núr* of the 1st October notices the inconvenience which the people of Moradabad have to suffer on account of opium being sold there only at one place—viz., the Tehseel—unlike all other cities where several shops for the sale of this drug are to be found in different quarters. The result is that the inhabitants of the remote parts of the city have daily to travel a long distance to procure it; while many miss the chance of buying it. The shop is open from 9 to 12 o'clock in the morning, and from 3 to 5 in the evening, and is the whole time over-crowded with customers, in consequence of which quarrels are very frequent. The writer fears that something serious may some day happen. He cannot understand why the authorities have licensed only one shop for the

sale of opium in this city, and is of opinion that a shop should be opened at each of its gates.

In connection with this, it is mentioned that a shop for the sale of *chandú* (a preparation of opium for smoking) has recently been opened in the city under the license of the magistrate. This shop panders to wicked and immoral purposes, and is the cause of the perpetration of crime. Its existence is therefore much to be deprecated.

The *Kárnámah* of the 3rd October, in its column of local news, again invites the attention of the City Magistrate to the bad practice of driving after dark without lights. Since he last wrote on the subject, the writer has heard of another accident having happened.

The Income-tax is being collected with great rigour in the city. The miseries of the poor already knew no bounds on account of a general destruction of their houses by the late rain, and the tax has served to increase them. Considering the state of the people, it was most desirable that the collection of the tax should have been deferred for some time, and the poor entirely exempted from it; but it is quite otherwise.

The tax is being raised with great severity, and the least delay in payment is visited by a penalty. Fortunately for the people, however, the Chief Commissioner, who warmly sympathizes with the distress of his subjects, is about to resume charge of his duties. He is sure to show some indulgence to them.

The same paper states that the High Court authorities have ruled that special appeals of less than Rs. 1,000 shall not be entertained in that Court, and remarks that it is surprising why suits of a heavy amount should alone be cognizable. As it is, petty suits are more frequently wrongly decided, on account of subordinate officers paying little or no attention to them, and it would therefore have been proper for the higher authorities to take special notice of them. Unfortunately the reverse has been done, which is a cause of complaint to all.

The same paper remarks that the price of provisions has again risen at Agra. Captain Sanderson, the Officiating Cantonment Magistrate, made excellent arrangements in this particular, and the result was that prices were greatly lowered in his time. Since his departure no one cares to inquire into the cause of the dearness of grain.

The *Oudh Akhbár* of the 4th October, under the heading "*Burhanpore*," asserts that on the 30th ultimo, a banker named Parsuram, when returning home from his shop in the evening with his bag of money and jewels, was attacked by two robbers near the Chihal Sitún, at a short distance from the Kothwali, who beat him and then ran off with the bag. The banker cried for help, but all in vain. The Chief Constable, Anwar Khán, who was enjoying himself at a marriage party at the time, forty or fifty paces from the place of the assault, took no notice of the banker's complaint. At 10 o'clock next morning, Anwar Khán, with a body of Constables, went in search of the robbers, as if the latter lay asleep and were to fall an easy prey into their hands.

The *Shola-i-Túr* of the same date prefers the usual complaint against Government Post-offices, viz., that many of the paid letters, newspapers, &c., despatched through their agency are lost or destroyed, and never reach their destination. To put a stop to this crying evil, the writer suggests that a clerk be engaged at each post-office for giving receipts of all letters, &c., delivered to the post-office for despatch. This plan will certainly involve a small expense, but as Government reaps considerable profit from the postal department, it ought not to grudge this petty outlay. But if it be unwilling to take the expense upon itself, a slight increase can be made in the postage to meet the additional cost.

It is also necessary that letter-carriers and postal mohurrirs be kept under proper restraint, and on being found guilty of unfair practice, be brought to condign punishment, to serve as a warning to others.

A correspondent of the *Mufid-ul-Anám* of the 6th October, writing from Nowgong (Bundelkhund), states that it is quite certain that the practice of counterfeiting coins is prevalent in many of the states of Bundelkhund. In Alipura, Tehree, and Kurraolee, mints for counterfeiting coins have been in existence for a long time. The rupee coined at Tehree is current at that place as well as at Alipura, and besides being less in weight is adulterated. The Jaipore goldmohur is also counterfeited here, as also a kind of Nawábí pice. A similar counterfeiting is going on at Alipura and Kurraolee. As these places are only three or four *kos* distant from the agency, it is a matter of great surprise to the writer that the attention of the Political Agent should not have been drawn to these illegal proceedings, till the discovery of counterfeit coins at Tehree brought the matter to light. The writer thinks that Government ought to take serious notice of the crime.

The *Allygurh Institute Gazette* of the 7th October dwells at some length upon the evils likely to result from the rule debarring persons from entering the public service after the age of twenty-three, which it is said Government intends to enforce. The writer observes that the rule will either prevent Hindustánís from entering Government employ, or lead them to make false statements as to their age. Circumstanced as they are, they seldom acquire at that age knowledge and refinement enough to qualify them for the public service. Accordingly, there will be but a faint chance of their getting Government employment. But this is not the worst that will befall them. The cultivation of the western arts and sciences, and of the higher branches of learning, will at once cease, and the people will content themselves with acquiring only as much knowledge as may enable them to enter the service before it is too late. Thus, while now Government finds fault with Hindustánís for leaving school or college before completing their education, if the rule be enforced Government itself will be to blame for this imperfect education.

Then again, it is fair to consider that if twenty-three years has been fixed as the age for entering the service, and fifty-five as the age for retiring from it, it is manifest that the whole period of life between twenty-three and fifty-five has been deemed fit for service. And such being the case, can there be any valid reason that after twenty-three years a person should not be allowed to enter the service? There is no reason why at any age that is fit for employment men should not be allowed to enter the service.

In fact, it would be right if it were ruled that no person will be admitted into the service *before* the age of twenty-three. This rule would certainly do much good, and serve as a stimulus to Indian youths to complete their education.

For the above reasons, the writer hopes that if, as would appear from the *Friend's* statement, Government really means to lay down the rule in question, it will give up all such thoughts, bearing it in mind that the rule will serve to banish high education from India, in which case able officials will no longer be forthcoming for Government.

The *Panjábi Akhbár* of the 8th October invites the attention of Government to the improvement of agriculture in India. English Government has done much for the people, and their welfare is its only object. One important point, however, has escaped its notice. It has not directed its attention to improve the prospects of agriculture in this country, consequently famine and its accompanying evils have marked it for their prey. No complaint is more common in these times than that the necessaries of life are exceedingly dear, which is ascribed to be an incident peculiar to the English rule. It is therefore high time for Government to adopt measures for the improvement of agriculture, which is the only means to redress the grievance.

As preliminary steps in furtherance of that object, the writer suggests the following measures:—

Orders should be issued by Government to the heads of all districts to furnish brief and comprehensive reports of the

state of the land produce in their respective districts, and to give information on general points connected with agriculture. Among these may be mentioned the following :—

(a.) What articles of food are largely consumed in their districts ?

(b.) The produce per acre of such articles.

(c.) The difference between the produce of lands irrigated from wells, those irrigated from canals, and those watered by rain or unirrigated.

(d.) The general state of agriculture.

(e.) Whether the original cultivator is in poor or affluent circumstances.

(f.) The improvements effected in the land during the last ten years.

(g.) How the lands in their districts are capable of improvement with special reference to their peculiar qualities.

Information on the above points, and others that may suggest themselves, will give Government an insight into all that is of importance for it to know. Having thus secured all the necessary information and details connected with the land and its produce, Government should adopt measures for improving agriculture.

Under the Mogul Government much attention was paid to this subject. Nineteen years were spent in ascertaining the state of cultivation. The *takhmeena* given in the *Ain-i-Akbari* is a summary survey of the state of cultivation extending over seventeen centuries. Were Government to take similar pains, and then devise means for the improvement of agriculture, there is no doubt that India would yield at least one-fourth as much produce again as England.

The same paper refers to the coming durbár of His Excellency the Governor-General, to be held at Ajmere in the third week of October, and remarks that the Chiefs and Princes of

India will have to spend large sums of money on the occasion. Their exchequers were already in an impoverished state owing to the late famine, and what now remains in them will be drained on account of Lord Mayo. It is a pity that no one cares about the circumstances of these unfortunates. Every third or fourth year the visit of the Viceroy, or some such occasion, ensues and entails heavy expenses on them.

It is stated in the same article that for the last month and a half there has been no rain in Jodhpore, in consequence of which the *bajra* crops have been destroyed. This is much to be lamented, as that grain is the chief article of consumption in this territory. The lake and tanks have dried up. Starvation, emigration, and other miseries had already reduced the population of Márwár by one-half; there is no knowing what is now in store for the wretched inhabitants. There are some villages in this territory where numbers of houses are quite desolate.

The *Urdú Dehli Gazette* of the same date learns from a correspondent at Allahabad that at the Sirsá Railway Station, after the passengers' train had left the Station, two corpses of Hindustanis, with turbans, were found in the pit for receiving charcoal ashes. It is hitherto a mystery whether the deceased were passengers belonging to the train in question, or had been killed by the one that had preceded it. The police are busy in making enquiries.

The same paper states that there has long been a dispute between the Mahárájas of Márwár and Jaipore as to the right of precedence in the durbár of His Excellency the Governor-General, and that the point has not yet been decided. The Government is trying to settle the question. "If the statement of historians of old be believed to be true," says the editor, "the settlement of the point in debate is easy enough, since they assert that the Mahárája of Márwár was admitted first. Perhaps the more deserving of the two will now have the right of precedence."

The *Shola-i-Tír* of the 11th October, in its column of local news, complains that the practice of mixing deleterious substances with butter has now become very prevalent in the city. The things generally mixed are stated to be *mahuá* oil, poppy-seed, oil, and boiled *arvi*. As, according to the Indian Penal Code, the sale of adulterated food is a legal crime, the writer entreats that members of the municipality should bring the abuse to the notice of the municipal committee and have it removed, or that the collector himself should issue orders prohibiting adulteration in butter.

EDUCATIONAL.

The *Agra Akhbár* of the 10th October publishes the following points for consideration, communicated to him by a Sub-Deputy Inspector of Schools, in order to invite the attention of the Director of Public Instruction to them, with its own comments.

(1.) Sub-Deputy Inspectors ought to receive travelling allowance. All Government *employés* when travelling on duty receive such allowance. Is it not strange that Deputy-Inspectors, and even their *mohurrirs* and *chuprassees* should get it, while the poor Sub-Deputy Inspector, who is always moving about should be excluded from the privilege. The writer gathers from official papers that vaccinators and other *employés* belonging to Government Dispensaries are to receive travelling allowance at the rate of two annas per mile. He thinks this concession has been made by Sir William Muir, and hopes that the claims of Sub-Deputy Inspectors will not be overlooked.

(2.) The writer also asks that like Deputy Inspectors, Sub-Deputy Inspectors should be allowed a *chuprassee*.

The *Agra Akhbár* does not agree in this proposal.

(3.) He asks for the diaries of Sub-Deputy Inspectors to be examined by Inspectors themselves, and orders passed accordingly.

The *Agra Akhbár* thinks that this request of the writer might have proceeded from the fact of Deputy Inspectors examining the diaries of the Sub-Deputy Inspectors with indifference, but observes that Inspectors can hardly spare time to peruse such diaries.

(4.) The writer finds fault with Deputy Inspectors for keeping up direct communication with village school teachers.

The *Agra Akhbár* seconds the proposal, and thinks that Deputy Inspectors should not correspond with village school teachers, except in cases of necessity.

(5.) He complains that Sub-Deputy Inspectors are not allowed service labels and newspapers.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Oudh Akhbár* of the 4th October publishes a speech by Munshí Safdar Hussain, Assistant Commissioner of Gondah, in which the Munshí proposes the establishment of a Society at Gondah. His views were seconded by his audience, and especially so by the Mahárāja of Bulrámpore. To the speech is appended a list showing the amount of subscriptions paid by different gentlemen in aid of the establishment of the proposed Society. The Mahárāja of Bulrámpore heads the list with a subscription of Rs. 3,000 opposite his name.

The *Urdú Akhbár* of the 8th October praises the Nawab of Lohárú for his good administration and kindness to his subjects.

The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined
in this report, viz. :—

No.	NAME.	WHERE PUB- LISHED.	DATE.	WHEN RE- CEIVED.	
				1870.	1870.
1	<i>Matla-i-Núr,</i> ...	Cawnpore, ...	Sept. 19th	Oct. 9th	
2	<i>Ditto,</i> ...	Ditto, ...	" 26th	" 13th	
3	<i>Oudh Akhbár,</i> ...	Lucknow, ...	" 27th	" 13th	
4	<i>Shola-i-Túr,</i> ...	Cawnpore, ...	" 27th	" 15th	
5	<i>Jalwa-i-Túr,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	" 30th	" 13th	
6	<i>Khair Khwáh-i-Panjáb,</i> ...	Gujaranwalla,...	" 30th	" 15th	
7	<i>Rifáh-i-Khaláiq,</i> ...	Shahjehanpore, ...	Oct. 1st	" 9th	
8	<i>Anjuman-i-Hind,</i> ...	Lucknow, ...	" 1st	" 9th	
9	<i>Riyáz-i-Núr-i-Hind,</i> ...	Muradabad, ...	" 1st	" 9th	
10	<i>Rohilkhund Akhbár,</i> ...	Ditto, ...	" 1st	" 9th	
11	<i>Gwalior Gazette,</i> ...	Gwalior, ...	" 2nd	" 14th	
12	<i>Kárnámah,</i> ...	Lucknow, ...	" 3rd	" 9th	
13	<i>Márwár Gazette,</i> ...	Jodhpore, ...	" 3rd	" 13th.	
14	<i>Jagat Samáchár,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	" 3rd	" 14th	
15	<i>Shola-i-Túr,</i> ...	Cawnpore, ...	" 4th	" 9th	
16	<i>Oudh Akhbár,</i> ...	Lucknow, ...	" 4th	" 13th	
17	<i>Akmal-ul-Akhbár,</i> ...	Delhi, ...	" 5th	" 10th	
18	<i>Majma-ul-Bahrain,</i> ...	Ludhiana, ...	" 5th	" 13th	
19	<i>Safir-i-Star of India,</i> ...	Gujaranwalla,...	" 5th	" 15th	
20	<i>Naiyir-i-Akhbár,</i> ...	Bijnour, ...	" 6th	" 12th	
21	<i>Muftid-ul-Anám,</i> ...	Futtehgurh, ...	" 6th	" 13th	
22	<i>Akhbár-i-Alam,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	" 6th	" 14th	
23	<i>Allygurh Institute Ga- zette.</i> ...	Allygurh, ...	" 7th	" 10th	
24	<i>Lawrence Gazette,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	" 7th	" 10th	
25	<i>Rajpútána Social Science Congress.</i> ...	Jaipore, ...	" 7th	" 13th	
26	<i>Urdú Akhbár,</i> ...	Delhi, ...	" 8th	" 10th	
27	<i>Urdú Delhi Gazette,</i> ...	Agra, ...	" 8th	" 10th	
28	<i>Anjuman-i-Hind,</i> ...	Lucknow, ...	" 8th	" 13th	
29	<i>Meerut Gazette,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	" 8th	" 13th	
30	<i>Najm-ul-Akhbár,</i> ...	Ditto, ...	" 8th	" 14th	
31	<i>Fanjábí Akhbár,</i> ...	Lahore, ...	" 8th	" 14th	
32	<i>Kárnámah,</i> ...	Lucknow, ...	" 10th	" 13th	
33	<i>Jagat Samáchár,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	" 10th	" 14th	
34	<i>Agra Akhbár,</i> ...	Agra, ...	" 10th	" 15th	
35	<i>Nasím-i-Jaunpore,</i> ...	Jaunpore, ...	" 11th	" 15th	
36	<i>Shola-i-Túr,</i> ...	Cawnpore, ...	" 11th	" 15th	
37	<i>Núr-ul-Absár,</i> ...	Allahabad, ...	" 15th	" 15th	

ALLAHABAD :
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